United Nations CERD/SP/SR.33

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Provisional

11 January 2012

Original: English

Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Twenty-fourth Meeting

Provisional summary record of the 33rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on 30 November 2011, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chair: Mr. Šimonović ..... (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chair: Mr. Hoxha ..... (Albania)

Contents

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General

Election of the Chair

Adoption of the agenda

Election of other officers of the Meeting

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

11-61338 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General

1. **The Temporary Chair**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. He expressed appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for approving the request to hold the Meeting during the main part of the General Assembly session. By bringing forward the date of the Meeting, which traditionally had been held in January, newly elected members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could better prepare for the Committee's first annual session, to be held in February. It was hoped that a similar practice might be followed in future.

2. The number of States parties to the Convention was 175 at present. While that was cause for satisfaction, there remained some way to go towards the goal of universal ratification.

3. At its sessions in 2010 and 2011, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had considered 43 initial or periodic reports and had adopted conclusions and recommendations aimed at effectively implementing the Convention at the national level. The Committee had also continued to review the implementation of the Convention by States parties whose reports were seriously overdue.

4. At its seventy-ninth session, the Committee had adopted its General Recommendation No. 34, the purpose of which was to clarify certain aspects of discrimination against people of African descent, States' responsibilities to address it, and the support of the Committee in the struggle to overcome discrimination worldwide. Its adoption also contributed to promoting the International Year for People of African Descent. Prior to the elaboration of the Recommendation, the Committee had discussed the issue at its seventy-eighth session, together with the States parties, representatives of other treaty bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations.

5. Also at its seventy-ninth session, the Committee had agreed on a statement on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In it, the Committee had strongly recommended that the high-level meeting convened to commemorate the anniversary should reaffirm the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The Committee also had reiterated the central role that the Convention and the Committee played in combating racism and racial discrimination; urged States parties to fully implement the provisions of the Convention; and called again for its universal ratification without reservations.

6. The Committee's workload had steadily increased and the General Assembly had therefore decided, in its resolution 63/243, to authorize the Committee to meet for one additional week per session from August 2009 until 2001. In its resolution 65/200, the General Assembly had extended that authorization to 2012, thus allowing the Committee to address its backlog of reports. A four-week session continued to ensure that incoming reports were considered in a timely manner and that the Committee fulfilled all its other responsibilities under the Convention.

7. Important as the Committee's achievements were, there was room for improvement. For instance, only 54 States parties had made the optional declaration recognizing the Committee's competence to receive communications under article 14 of the Convention, and consequently the individual communications procedure remained underutilized. In the past two years, the Committee had formulated opinions on only three communications.

8. With regard to the financing of activities under the Convention, the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/111, had endorsed the amendment to article 8 of the Convention providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations and had requested the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee on that basis, beginning with the budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The Secretary-General had continued to ensure that the Committee received adequate funding. In order for the amendment to enter into force, acceptance must be received from two thirds of the States parties. To date, only 43 States parties had ratified the amendment, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly.

9. At the same time, the Secretariat was still seeking the payment of arrears of voluntary contributions under

the Committee's previous financial regime. The Secretariat was obliged to report to the General Assembly on those accounts every other year. In most cases, the arrears amounted to a few thousand dollars — more than the cost of producing the financial report itself. Moreover, some of the States with outstanding payments no longer existed. It was time that States parties, in their capacity as members of the General Assembly, pay any outstanding arrears of voluntary contributions and ratify the amendments to the Convention. Such actions would constitute a welcome first step in a much-needed comprehensive review of the resource requirements of all human rights treaty bodies.

10. With regard to the election of nine members of the Committee to replace those whose terms of office would expire on 19 January 2012, he recalled that the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 11 July 2011, had invited the States parties to submit their nominations by 12 September 2011. The names of the nominees and an indication of the States parties that had nominated them were contained in documents CERD/SP/74 and CERD/SP/74/Add.1, which also contained the biographical data of the nominees. The names of the nine members of the Committee who would continue to serve until 19 January 2014 were listed in annex II to document CERD/SP/74.

Election of the Chair

11. **Mr. Le** Luong Minh (Viet Nam), speaking as Chair of the Twenty-third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, nominated Mr. Hoxha (Albania) for the office of Chair of the Meeting.

12. *Mr. Hoxha (Albania) was elected Chair by acclamation.*

13. *Mr. Hoxha (Albania) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CERD/SP/73)

14. *The agenda was adopted.*

15. The Chair, drawing attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CERD/SP/2/Rev.1), said that the Secretary-General had not yet received credentials from a number of States parties represented at the Meeting. He therefore suggested that, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of those States parties should be permitted to participate in the Meeting provisionally, on the understanding that the States concerned would submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

16. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers of the Meeting

17. **The Chair** said that, under rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting should elect one to four Vice-Chairs from among the representatives of the States parties. He had been informed that Mr. Kimura (Japan) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chair by the Group of Asian States.

18. *Mr. Kimura (Japan) was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.*

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/SP/74 and Add.1)

19. **The Chair** drew attention to the list of candidates nominated by the States parties to replace the Committee members whose terms of office would expire on 19 January 2012, and their biographical data, contained in document CERD/SP/74 and CERD/SP/74/Add.1. He had been informed that the candidatures of Mr. Peter (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Al Kuwari (Qatar) and Mr. Maderić (Croatia) had been withdrawn by their respective Governments. Altogether, 13 candidates had been nominated for the 9 vacancies. In that connection, he drew attention to the provisions of article 8 of the Convention relating to the election of members of the Committee, particularly paragraphs 1, 2 and 4. He invited the States parties to elect nine members to the Committee for a four-year term beginning on 19 January 2012.

20. *At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Cifligu (Albania), Ms. Barden (Belgium) and Ms. Putanapun (Thailand) acted as tellers.*

21. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	167
Number of valid ballots:	167
Number of members voting:	167
Required majority:	84
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Huang Yong'an (China)	148
Mr. Lahiri (India)	147

Mr. Avtonomov (Russian Federation)	133
Mr. Vázquez (United States of America)	131
Mr. Cali Tzay (Guatemala)	127
Ms. Dah (Burkina Faso)	125
Ms. January-Bardill (South Africa)	117
Mr. Murillo Martínez (Colombia)	112
Mr. Diaconu (Romania)	109
Mr. Ismayilov (Azerbaijan)	89
Ms. Hungbo-Kploca (Benin)	84
Ms. Alldad (Iraq)	60
Mr. Elhassan Yousif (Sudan)	57

22. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Avtonomov (Russian Federation), Mr. Cali Tzay (Guatemala), Ms. Dah (Burkina Faso), Mr. Diaconu (Romania), Mr. Huang Yong'an (China), Ms. January-Bardill (South Africa), Mr. Lahiri (India), Mr. Murillo Martínez (Colombia) and Mr. Vázquez (United States of America) were elected members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.